GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1937
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Open Access Policy
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regard to the Open Access provisions contained in Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) whether open access provision is not being implemented in the country; (c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the various facilities being provided through this provision; and

(d) the details of assistance being provided under Open Access for preparing a competitive atmosphere?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Open Access has been defined in Section 2(47) of the Electricity Act, 2003. The provisions regarding Open Access to the consumers has been provided in Section 9(2), 38(2), 39(2), 40, 42(2) and 86(1). The relevant extracts of the provisions are at Annex.

(b) to (d) : Open Access to Inter-State and Intra-State transmission system is governed by different Regulations framed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) respectively.

The Central Commission has notified the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Inter-State Open Access in Transmission) Regulations, 2008 and the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long Term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009 to facilitate Open Access in inter-State transmission of electricity. Open Access at inter-state level is fully operational.

Over 3000 Open Access consumers are buying power through Power Exchanges. The details of Open Access availed on Inter State Transmission System during the last five years are given below:

Total (Bilateral + Collective) No. of Transactions Approved Energy (MUs)
2008-09 15414 30521
2009-10 18128 39457
2010-11 19883 55232
2011-12 24111 66987
2012-13 32088 73153
2013-14 33917 86973
2014-15 38053 80866
2015-16 (upto Oct., 2015) 28231 61701
(Source: POSOCO/NLDC)

Open Access at intra-state level remains the responsibility of SERCs. All the SERCs/JERCs have notified Open Access Regulations.

High level of cross subsidy in tariff, High levels of Open Access charges, cross-subsidy surcharges, lack of functional and financial autonomy of SLDCs, standby charges etc. are some of the factors reported to be responsible for slow pace of Open Access implementation at distribution level.

The provisions of Open Access in Electricity Act, 2003, regulations framed by CERC/SERCs etc. have ensured competitive environment through Open Access and have facilitated inter-State trading in electricity.

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